



## What is the U.S. Foreign Service?

The mission of a U.S. diplomat in the Foreign Service is to promote peace, support prosperity, and protect American citizens while advancing the interests of the U.S. abroad. If you're passionate about public service and want to represent the U.S. around the world, a challenging and rewarding career is waiting for you. The opportunity to work and experience cultures, customs and people of different nations is truly a career unlike any other.

The work you'll do will have an impact on the world. You will be asked to serve at one of any of the more than 265 embassies, consulates and other diplomatic missions in The Americas, Africa, Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia. Some of these posts are in difficult and even dangerous environments, but working in them affords great challenges and rewards.

Consul General Kay spoke with International Relations students from the University of Macedonia about careers in the American diplomatic service. CG Kay talked to the class, which included a number of Erasmus exchange students from Balkan countries, about how the U.S. Foreign Service recruits its diplomats, the rigorous merit-based selection and promotion processes, and the widely varied nature of an American diplomat's work. She described the challenges and opportunities a diplomatic career can offer and encouraged the students to work hard to achieve their own career goals in the international arena.



Consul General Kay addressing the students.

## Upcoming Events

- **August 12:**  
International Youth Day
- **September 10-18:**  
76<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki  
International Trade Fair
- **September 14 :**  
Consular Outreach Trip  
to Grevena
- **September 17 or 18:**  
DPO Marsha Lance and  
Cons to address group of  
145 Study Abroad  
students at ACT from the  
Northeastern University



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## Northern Pages' Q&A Tip

**Q: How university or technological degrees that are awarded by foreign Higher Education Institutions can be recognized in Greece?**

A: When the graduates of U.S. Universities and Colleges (and other foreign Higher Education Institutions, in general) decide to return to Greece, they have to deal with the bureaucracy surrounding the recognition of their degrees. The organization which is responsible for this recognition is D.O.A.T.A.P.



D.O.A.T.A.P. (Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Center) is supervised by the Hellenic Ministry of Education. D.O.A.T.A.P. is also responsible for providing information about educational systems and accreditation of Institutions in Greece and abroad. The U.S. Consulate General can inform the people who are interested in, about what exactly is needed to be done in order for a U.S. degree to be accepted in Greece, by providing a complete, up to date – English and Greek document for use.

You may also visit <http://www.doatap.gr>

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# NorthernPages

THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN THESSALONIKI NEWSLETTER

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## Half of Young Europeans ready to work abroad

**According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, 53% of young people in Europe are willing or keen to work in another European country, but lack of cash discourages many of them from taking a first step towards this by spending part of their education abroad. The survey highlights a huge gap between the widespread desire of young people to work abroad and actual workforce mobility: less than 3% of Europe's working population currently lives outside their home country. The survey, conducted in the context of the Commission's 'Youth on the Move' strategy, is published on the eve of the 2011 European Youth Week (15-21 May).**

*"The survey shows that young people are keen and willing to work abroad. That's good news for Europe; unfortunately they still face too many obstacles. We need to make it easier for them to study, train or work abroad and to raise awareness of the financial support available through EU schemes like Erasmus which can give them a first taste of living outside their home country.*

*Two of the biggest challenges we face today are youth unemployment and low economic growth: a more mobile student and workforce population is part of the solution,"* said Mrs. Androulla Vassiliou, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

Studies show that students who spend part of their studies or training outside their home country boost their employability and are more likely to work abroad later in life. Employers value the skills they gain such as the ability to speak a foreign language, adaptability and interpersonal competences.

The survey shows that only one in seven (14%) young Europeans have been abroad for education or training. Lack of funding prevents many from doing so. Of those who said they had wanted to go abroad, 33% said they couldn't afford it; nearly two-thirds (63%) of those who did had to rely on private funding or savings. *"This finding underlines the need to strengthen our mobility programs, which provide excellent value for money,"* added Commissioner Vassiliou.

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## Fulbright Offers Insights on Studies in the U.S.

The American Consulate General in Thessaloniki hosted the customary Fulbright pre-departure orientation for future local students preparing for their study programs in the U.S., at both the graduate or post-graduate levels. A vast array of topics was covered from basic policies and courtesies, cultural shock, how to handle common problems, bureaucracy, academic standards and methodologies, and differences between local practice and American standards.

Consul Marsha Lance opened the floor by giving a brief introduction, commending students for their academic excellence and exhorting them to serve as "Ambassadors for Greece," and return to their home country to apply newly-learned skills and methodologies. The event closed by opening the floor to questions from grantees on any concerns they might have and what they could expect.

The Fulbright Program offers grants to study, teach and conduct research for U.S. citizens to go abroad and non-U.S. citizens to come to the United States. For more information, please visit <http://fulbright.state.gov/>

You may download the U.S. Study Guide (in Greek version) at <http://www.fulbright.gr/>



# Student Visas

The United States welcomes foreign students to American language schools, high schools, universities and other institutions of higher education.

An applicant for a United States student visa must have a valid educational purpose for coming to the United States and be a full time student.

It is not possible to be a part-time student on an F-1 Visa. The student can stay in the United States for as long as he/she is enrolled in school.

The F-1 student visa is normally issued at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the student's home country.

When accepted, educational institutions and program sponsors will provide each applicant the necessary approval documentation, to be submitted when applying for a visa.

### Required Documentation

- A passport valid for travel to the United States.
- Form I-20A-B, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status-For Academic and Language Students or Form I-20M-N, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (M-1) Student Status for Vocational Students.
- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, Form DS-160.
- One (1) 2x2 photograph.
- A MRV fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee.
- The SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.

### All applicants should be

- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended;
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution (TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT, etc.);

- All student applicants must have a SEVIS generated Form, I-20, issued by an educational institution approved by Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which they submit when they are applying for their student visa. Your school is responsible for entering your information for the I-20 student visa form into SEVIS. The consular officer will need to verify your I-20 record electronically through the SEVIS system in order to process your student visa application. Otherwise, all F-1/M-1 principal applicants must pay a SEVIS I-901 fee to the DHS.

For more information, please visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1268.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html)

### prepared to provide:

- Financial evidence that shows you or your parents who are sponsoring you has sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study.



## Lifelong Learning from Consul Marsha A. Lance

Lifelong learning, also known as "LLL," is the continuous enhancement of your skills, knowledge and experiences throughout your lifetime. The methods you choose can be formal (training, counseling, tutoring, mentorship, apprenticeship, higher education, etc.) or informal (experiences, situations, a change in your outlook on learning and personal improvement.)

This is a self-motivated discipline of the self, and as such, serves to enhance your social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development, but also your competitiveness and employability. Prime Minister Giorgos Papandreou called for Greek citizens to embrace LLL in his opening speech of the Thessaloniki Trade Fair in 2010. This is a call to action!

As young students, you are at the beginning of your professional careers. While no one doubts that this is an exciting time for you, I am certain that it can also make you feel a bit uneasy about your choices. One way you can increase your confidence, even in the face of many uncertainties is to firmly establish the underlying principles of LLL early, and make absolutely sure that this positive self-discipline becomes well-grounded in your psyche. It will allow you to better adapt to changing professional environments, to the fast-paced world of business, and to whatever challenges will confront you over the course of a lifetime. Knowledge is a great gift, but the thirst to refine it is even greater. Apply what you know in active service, and seek for that for which you do not know.



In the popular YouTube video, "Shift Happens 2010," the creators tell us that "The top 10 in-demand jobs in 2010 did not exist in 2004. And, that we are currently training students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems that we don't even know are problems yet!" How do you prepare yourself for a workplace like that -- where you don't know what the future will hold, and what type of job you will be working in? The answer is that you can prepare yourself to adapt to change. And you embrace the possibility that your journey to acquire knowledge and skills is just that, ... a journey, and not a destination!



## 10 million use Europass CV for job-search

More than 10 million people are now using a 'Europass' online CV to help them find a job, according to the European Commission. By offering a standardized CV template, available in 26 languages, Europass helps job-seekers to market their knowledge and skills in a user-friendly way to employers all over Europe and beyond. Almost half of Europass users are under the age of 25.

Commissioner Vassiliou said: "The Europass CV is practical, popular and effective. I am particularly pleased that it has been embraced by young people; it is an important tool in our "Youth on the Move" campaign, which encourages study and work abroad. I doubt it will be too long before we see 20 million Europass users."

However, it is clear from the feedback that, as well as using Europass to seek posts abroad, a lot of people are increasingly using the CV to apply for jobs in their own country too.

To create your Europass CV online, please visit <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/>

